

**Windsor, North Carolina
May 4, 2026
REGULAR SESSION**

The Bertie County Commissioners met in Regular Session at 6:00 PM inside the Commissioners’ room, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. This meeting was hosted partially in person and partially via Zoom (conference call). The following members were present or absent:

- Present:

Chair, Corey Ballance, Sr., District III
Vice-Chair, Lewis Hoggard, III, District I
Ronald “Ron” Roberson, District V
Vivian Saunders, District IV
Michael White, District II
- Staff Present:

County Manager, Juan Vaughan, II
County Attorney, Jonathan Huddleston
Clerk to the Board, Tonya Davis

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Corey Ballance, Sr. called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. David Ray gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ronald Wesson, a former Commissioner, appointed to the Rural Infrastructure Authority Board, presented opportunities for economic development funding, specifically highlighting potential projects for Interstate 87 and Highway 11. Wilson noted that Bertie County had only submitted three grants to the Rural Infrastructure Authority in the past 14 years and offered to provide more detailed information about available programs.

Miles Davis spoke about the importance of supporting volunteer firefighters and suggested organizing a meeting between local officials and fire departments to address concerns and promote collaboration.

APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

1. Convene as the Board of Equalization and Review

Vice-Chair Hoggard made the **MOTION** to convene as the Board of Equalization and Review. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION** passed with a **5-0** vote. The Board of Equalization & Review had no appeals to review and no actions were taken.

Vice-Chair Hoggard made the **MOTION** to adjourn as the Board of Equalization and Review. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION** passed with a **5-0** vote.

2. Introduction of Beyond Your Ordinary by Daja Jenkins

Daja Jenkins from Beyond Your Ordinary introduced their non-profit's services, including mental health support and substance abuse programs.

3. Introduction of Eustress Inc. by Rwenshaun Miller

Rwenshaun Miller from Eustress Incorporated shared his personal experience with mental health challenges and his work providing therapy services in the county.

4. Trillium Health Resources Annual Report by Bobbie Lowe

Bobbie Lowe from Trillium Health Resources provided an update on Medicaid services in Bertie County, explaining the transition to managed care plans and highlighting their role in serving

individuals with behavioral health needs. The discussion included information about local programs, including substance use prevention initiatives in schools and access to crisis services.

5. Veteran’s Services Updates by Denise Clark

Denise Clark provided updates from the Veteran’s Services Department that included transportation and health initiatives.

6. Financial Summary and Budget Amendments by Willie Carawan

Willie Carawan presented the financial summary and budget amendment, highlighting revenue and expenditure details.

7. Presentation of the 2026-2027 Recommended Budget by County Manager Vaughan

County Manager Vaughan presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget to the Board, noting an overall decrease of approximately \$500,000 compared to the current fiscal year. The reduction is primarily attributed to lower projected revenues.

The County Manager outlined several key challenges impacting the proposed budget, including increased costs associated with employee health insurance and retirement contributions. Due to these financial constraints, no salary increases for County employees were included in the proposed budget.

Additionally, the County Manager reported that requests for external funding to support essential equipment and services had been submitted; however, these anticipated funds were not incorporated into the current budget proposal.

County Manager Vaughan discussed several areas where funding reductions were proposed. These included potential adjustments to funding for the Assistant County Manager position, the Code Enforcement Officer position, and appropriations to Bertie County Schools. Further discussion included proposed decreases in school capital outlay funding and special appropriations.

County Manager highlighted the improved financial condition of the County’s Water Department, noting that the rate increases implemented in July 2021 have contributed to stabilizing the department’s finances.

County Manager Vaughan informed the Board of the upcoming budget schedule. A budget work session is scheduled for May 18, 2026, followed by a public hearing on June 8, 2026. Final adoption of the Fiscal Year budget is planned for June 22, 2026.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. ABC Board (1 appointment)

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to reappoint Sharon Jones to the ABC Board. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Saunders. The **MOTION** passed with a **5-0** vote.

2. Rivers East Workforce Development (1 appointment)

Commissioner Saunders made the **MOTION** to reappoint Karen Dameron to the Rivers East Workforce Development. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve the March 16, 2026 Work Session Meeting Minutes

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to approve the March 16, 2026 Work Session Meeting Minutes. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Saunders. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

2. Approve the April 6, 2026 Open and Closed Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to approve the April 6, 2026 Open and Closed Regular Meeting Minutes. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Saunders. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

3. Approve the March 2026 Tax Release Journal

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to approve the March 2026 Tax Release Journal. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Vice-Chair Hoggard. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

4. Approve the March 2026 Register of Deeds Fees Report

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to approve the March 2026 Register of Deeds Fees Report. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

5. Approve the 2025 Audit Contract

Vice-Chair Hoggard made the **MOTION** to approve the 2025 Audit Contract. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

6. Approve the Resolution to Adopt a Six Year Reappraisal Cycle

Tabled until the May 18, 2026 Work Session.

7. Approve the County Register of Deeds Records Retention and Disposition Schedule

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to approve the County Register of Deeds Record Retention and Disposition Schedule. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Vice-Chair Hoggard. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

8. Approve Proclamation Declaring June 2026 as Veterans PTSD Awareness Month

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to approve the Proclamation Declaring June 2026 as Veterans PTSD Awareness Month. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

9. Approve Proclamation Recognizing May 3 through May 9, 2026 as Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners Week

Commissioner Saunders made the **MOTION** to approve the Proclamation Recognizing May 3 through May 9, 2026 as Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners Week. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

*****OTHER ITEMS*****
DISCUSSION AGENDA (D)

1. Bertie County Relay for Life, Friday, May 15, 2026 at Bertie Middle School, 5:00PM

Chair Ballance reminded the Board of the upcoming Bertie County Relay for Life to be held at Bertie Middle School on Friday, May 15, 2026 starting at 5:00PM.

2. Martin Community College Commencement Exercises, Friday, May 15, 2026, 7:00PM

Chair Ballance reminded the Board of the Martin Community College Commencement Exercises on Friday, May 15, 2026 at 7:00PM.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Roberson

Commissioner Roberson stated that he visited Carolina Rebuilding Ministry as they were working on a resident's home and that they were doing a great job.

Vice-Chair Hoggard

Vice-Chair Hoggard agreed with Miles Davis's comments concerning the Fire Departments and would like the Board to come up with solutions to help assist them.

Commissioner White

Commissioner White informed the Board that the Bertie High School graduation will be held on May 30, 2026. Commissioner White also mentioned the letters that he and other Commissioners had received from the first graders at Windsor Elementary School.

Commissioner Saunders

Commissioner Saunders provided information regarding the Juneteenth celebration exercises that will be held on June 19, 2026 in Lewiston, North Carolina.

Chair Ballance

Chair Ballance stated that the Board will continue to make good sound decisions for the citizens and the county.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT

County Manager Vaughan also stated that he also received letters from the first graders at Windsor Elementary School and plans to reply back to each of them.

ATTORNEY REPORT

No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public Comments.

Chair Ballance recognized Patricia Smith in the audience and invited her to introduce herself. Mrs. Smith stated that she represents both the Democratic and Republican parties for the county and affirmed her commitment to supporting all parties, the citizens, and the county as a whole.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to enter into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)(4)(6). The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Saunders. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to re-enter into open session. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to approve the farm lease agreement of county property to Charlie Brown for \$110.00 per acre for a one-year lease term. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Saunders. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to release the January 8, 2024, February 5, 2024, and February 20, 2024 closed session minutes to the public. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Saunders. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

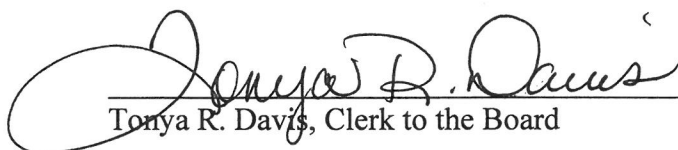
ADJOURN

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Saunders. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.



Chair, Corey Ballance, Sr.
Bertie County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Tonya R. Davis, Clerk to the Board